

THE FACTORY EXEMPTION QUESTION.

We cheerfully accord to Mr. Scudday the opportunity to publish his speech in the House of Representatives in opposition to the existing law which exempts manufacturers from taxation for a period of ten years, but in doing so we must not be understood as sanctioning that the publication of the mere fact that a member of the Legislature spoke upon any given side of a question entitles him to have that speech published in the paper so announcing. Mr. Scudday's speech, however, is thoughtful and well prepared, so that it will be doubly interesting and instructive to those who read it, though we do not think it will stand the test of a critical examination. It is plausible—pitched in a popular strain; but we think outside of that it fails to advance any strong reason for the repeal he seeks. The main idea that runs through Mr. Scudday's speech is, that the exemption rolls the many for the benefit of the few, and of course if it is true it is a grievous crime. In practice the sums invested in factory stocks are raised out of surplus money, which would otherwise be put into non-taxable bonds, or in many instances fail to be returned for taxation; out of capital induced to come here from abroad, which would otherwise not be subject to taxation here, and also a portion of it is raised out of small savings by men and ladies in limited circumstances, who invest in a few shares of factory stock. These are the three classes. Now let us see what the State gives up.

To begin with, it agrees not to tax the surplus money which is invested in manufacturing for ten years. This may appear to be a great concession, but in reality it is a good trade for the State, for as a general thing there is very little surplus money returned for taxation; and when men of large means invest their money they frequently manage to place a considerable part of it in a manner in which it pays no taxes. The State, therefore, says to the owner of surplus capital, if you will invest it in factory stock, where it can always be seen and taxed, we will exempt it for ten years. Theoretically the State may lose, but practically we believe she makes by the bargain, if it were to stop right here. Then on the introduced capital there can be no question that the State will ultimately gain by inducing its permanent investment here, upon condition that on its invested it shall be free from taxation for ten years.

Upon the third class of investments of small savings the State also gains, for many of these sums would otherwise go to secure some temporary comfort, which would add nothing to the wealth of the State, and would not appear upon the tax books. In all these classes it will be seen that it is at least doubtful if the State does not make more than she loses by inducing investment in factories, where it can always be reached for taxation. We do not mean to deny that sometimes money is put into factories which would otherwise go upon the tax books, but we are satisfied that a great deal goes there which would otherwise not get on the tax books, and then after ten years it is forever taxed by the State.

It is also a mistake to suppose that exemption from taxes is not an inducement for money to be invested in manufacturing. It is equal to one per cent. interest, which is one fourth or one-third as much as many men make on their money in some of the Northern States—one-third as much as the government pays on its bonds.

It is likewise a mistake to claim that the exemption principle is a new one in this State. It has run through the whole history of South Carolina. We believe it was first begun in the shape of bounties for the cultivation of indigo. We believe that every railroad that was built in the State before the war was exempted from taxation, either for a period of fifty years, or in perpetuity. It has always been the policy, and the practice of South Carolina to encourage attention to invulnerable industries which gave promise of profitable development.

It is equally a mistake, we think, to assume that we cannot equal the New England States in manufacturing. We have a longer day, and we have the cotton supply at our doors. We save the middlemen in handling cotton, and the long freight hauls on the raw material, and the return freight on the amount of the manufactured goods consumed here. Before the war we were an exclusively agricultural people, and our slave system was not favorable to the development of skilled industries. Now all of this has changed, and the work of diversified industry is steadily developing, and we believe the South is destined to distance her Northern sisters in the profitable industry of manufacturing.

The value of a bale of raw cotton averages forty dollars, while the same cotton manufactured becomes from three to, perhaps, ten times as valuable, according to the fitness of the manufacture. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired to save all of this profit in our midst. The South, upon a crop of 4,000,000 bales, receives about \$160,000,000, while if manufactured in our midst we would receive from \$500,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 for the same crop and its manipulation. It is, therefore, the part of political economy, and statesmanship to encourage the manufacture of this great staple in our midst. The coarser goods come first, but the finer grades will certainly follow.

In the next place, the man who invests money in factories gives employment to many helpless women and children, who could not otherwise live so comfortably or independently. It develops the resources, and adds to the wealth of the State. It builds prosperous villages, like Piedmont and Pelzer. It enhances many fold the value of lands around it, by which the revenues of the State are increased. It brings money into the State. It gives a market for all farm

supplies, and tends to raise the price of cotton. If there were factories enough in the South to manufacture our cotton, the farmer would get as much for it here as it sells for in New York or Liverpool. It is, therefore, to the interest of all classes of our people to encourage the building of factories.

Mr. Scudday says if we have any special favors to show, let us give them to agriculture. By all means. If Mr. Scudday knows of any legislation which would promote the agricultural interests of the State, he should speedily bring it forward; and if he can show that it will accomplish that result, he will have no difficulty in securing its enactment, for a majority of both branches of the Legislature are agriculturists. It is no argument to oppose doing something that has definite benefits, in order to wait and see if something cannot be turned up in some other direction that would be beneficial.

There are other parts of Mr. Scudday's argument which we would like to notice, but for the present we must content ourselves with looking briefly at his Constitutional argument. He contends that whenever a bill to repeal an existing law is before the Legislature, it brings the law before the body in all of its bearings. This is correct if the word "bearings" means its effect upon the State, but in the sense of bringing up the original question as Mr. Scudday implies, we do not agree with him. A very strong reason may have existed against a law in its passage, and yet upon a bill to repeal the reason might not exist at all; as for instance the enactment of the stock-law might have been opposed for Anderson County, because of the difficulty and expense of building pasture fences, and yet if a bill to repeal the law were now to be brought forward it would not revive that original objection, or if it did it should have no force. So we contend that the bill to repeal does not bring up the Constitutional question. Our laws make it the duty of the Courts to decide matters of Constitutional law and not the Legislature. If one Legislature decides an Act to be Constitutional, would it not have as much force as another which says it is unconstitutional. The Courts, however, can settle the question finally. If the opponents of exemption believe it to be unconstitutional, why not go to the Courts and test the matter. They profess every confidence in their case and yet take good care to keep it out of the Courts. The fact is that factories are not exempt from taxation. They pay their taxes just as other people do, but the State annually gives them ten years a sum of money equal to their taxes to foster and encourage their development. The State annually gives the State Agricultural Fair \$25,000 to foster and encourage it, and yet it has never occurred to Mr. Scudday, and those with him, that the same principle underlies both. It is a bonus in reality, though it is familiarly termed an exemption. It may be an evasion of the Constitution, apparently, but it is not so in spirit. The Legislature says, in effect, we wish to give you a bonus, but cannot afford to tax the people to do so; therefore, we will give you an amount equal to all the taxes you pay, except the two mill school tax for the term of ten years. We do not pretend to say how the Courts would decide the matter, but it is a little strange that men who are so confident that the law is unconstitutional, as some profess to be, keep so persistently away from the Courts. We believe it is a good law, and hope the Legislature will remain progressive and broad enough in its views to let the exemption, as it is familiarly termed, remain as a part of our law.

A CRITICISM REVIEWED.

Some days ago the Columbia correspondent of the *News and Courier*, in speaking of the appointments of Auditors and Treasurers by Gov. Thompson, stated that he had in every case appointed the incumbent, where he was an efficient officer and applied for reappointment, and the correspondent indulged some reflections adverse to the primary system of electing these officers. The *Greenville News* comments of this correspondence as follows:

"This is a clear and frank exposition of the leading political idea prevalent at Columbia. That idea is that the alleged sovereign people are weak and foolish, and not to be trusted, and that the strength and wisdom lies with some select and mysterious few who know what is good for the people better than the people know themselves. Carried to its legitimate and natural conclusion, the article we have quoted means that popular elections and local self-government are humbugs and failures. If Governor Thompson knows more of the qualifications of the candidates for Treasurer in Marion County than the people of Marion, why should not his knowledge be equally superior regarding the candidates for Sheriff, Coroner and County Commissioner, and why should not the President of the United States be better qualified to select a Governor for South Carolina than the citizens of the State?"

"All this talk about caring for the people and guarding them against their own follies and misdeeds, and raising the people up to the level of the man who they want done and who they want to do it. They are competent to select proper men to manage their affairs, and if they are not, they should be allowed to suffer for their deficiency."

The above extract strikes us as exceedingly unfair to Governor Thompson. The article which drew forth this criticism is merely the expression of a correspondent. Governor Thompson was neither called upon to affirm nor deny the correctness of the statements made. The views of the *Greenville News* are no doubt very popular with a large number of people who have probably not considered the matter much. It is, however, not undemocratic for the selection of some officers to be made without consulting the verdict of a popular election. The judicial officers of the State and of the United States are not elected by the people, because the people themselves, by the Federal and State Constitution, have taken the election of these officers away from the people. They have likewise, by their Constitution, taken the right of election away from the people as regards the offices of Auditor and Treasurer. There was a good reason for this as to the Auditor, for it is not the most popular man who will always make the best Auditor. He has duties to perform which are sometimes not pleasant, and it was the intention to put his office out of the reach of popular clamor. The Auditor and Treasurer are State

officers, not County only in their character. Every other County in the State is interested in the work of the Auditor and Treasurer for Richland County as well as the people of Richland, and there is, therefore, some reason why the people of one County should not have absolute control of who is to fill these offices. We believe it would be to the State's interest to send a Charleston man to Greenville and a Greenville man to Charleston, and so on, to assess property. The effect would be to have a fuller and fairer valuation of property in the State. The people do not care so much about these things, after all, as the office seekers do. All they want is polite, efficient and honorable officials, and they are, by no means, so anxious to deprive the Governor of the duty devolved on him under the Constitution as the men who want the office, which another good man holds, are to have an election in the hope of getting in there, under civil service reform, they would have no chance of securing an appointment.

THAT LAND CLAIM.

The *Greenville News*, commenting on the article of the *Intelligencer* endorsing the views of the *Pickens Sentinel* upon the Brown land claim in Pickens and Oconee Counties, says:

The above extract is from the *Anderson Intelligencer* and is proof enough that that able newspaper, like the esteemed contemporary it quotes from, is talking of something it knows nothing about. The bill alluded to was intended to make a good title, not to "one Brown representing a German syndicate," but to the heirs of Col. Brown, of Charleston, who have as much right to the unoccupied portion of the property alluded to as anything he has bought and paid for. Col. Brown purchased a claim from parties to whom it came by due process of law from the original grantee from the State, and it is sold by his widow and daughters who are "our own people." Their title is perfect with the exception of one old paper which has been lost from the clerk's office in Pickens or Anderson. The Legislature was asked to enable these heirs to take title to the land, and the bill proposed to pay \$25,000 for the portion of the land now occupied and settle immigrants upon it. The Legislature refused to grant this perfectly proper request and permit a transaction which would certainly have allowed the widow and children of an honest Southern soldier to take title to the property honestly inherited from him, and would probably have been of immense benefit to the State, because it did not know anything more about the matter than our esteemed contemporaries do, and, like them, undertook to act without taking the trouble to learn.

We may have fallen into some error about the personnel of this claim in common with our *Pickens* contemporary, but the principle upon which we based our position is, we still think correct. From our *Greenville* contemporary's statement, the facts are that Col. John Brown, years ago, had a claim to certain lands granted him, or some predecessor by the State in Pickens and Oconee Counties—then Pendleton County—which he did not think worth enough to keep in position to be enforced. He and his heirs have remained silent for many years, during which time parties have acquired a better title before the law than they have—many of these people who now hold these lands have paid their money for them, believing that they had good titles to them. What we said was, that if the State has any rights which she wants to give away to anybody in these lands, it would be more just to give those rights to the men who have paid their money for them, and are now living upon them, or using them, than to give them to persons who have either negligently or wilfully stood by and permitted hundreds of men to settle and purchase these lands. We do not think the State should interfere between these parties, but if she does, then we think the principles of equity would be most subserved by releasing the State's interest to the actual settlers, and not to speculators. We think the Legislature was right in letting the matter alone.

FINISHING THE STATE HOUSE.

The Columbia correspondent of the *Augusta Chronicle* and *Constitutionalist* says:

The commissioners appointed to superintend the repairs on the State House have elected Mr. John B. Niersee as architect of the building, and can complete it at less expense and more satisfactorily, perhaps, than any other who could have been selected. He is now a resident of Baltimore, but will at once remove with his family to Columbia. The Legislature appropriated \$75,000 to be expended on the building this year. It will require \$750,000 to complete it, and after the work is begun the appropriations for its continuance will probably be made annually.

The selection of Mr. Niersee is a judicious one, and guarantees satisfactory architecture to the people of the State.

Checking to Death.

MIDWAY, December 29.—A very remarkable surgical operation was performed yesterday by Dr. W. B. Niersee, of Columbia. A child of nine years of age, named George Brabham, a son of one townsmen, N. M. Brabham, whilst eating a robin and some nuts had a piece lodge in his throat which stopped his breath entirely. The rest of the family were absent, but on their return a few moments afterwards he was again dead, no more of a rattle of blood to be seen. The most wonderful part of it is that he appears to be mending every hour, and with every indication that he will recover.—*Correspondence News and Courier*.

A severe cyclone passed over the Caw-Caw section of Oconee County yesterday afternoon. Much damage was done to outbuildings and trees, but no lives were lost.

Key West is one of the most peculiar cities in the world. She has a population of more than 15,000, principally whites, but has no chimneys, no show windows, no brick blocks, no fine buildings, no planning mills, no steam mills, no machine shops, no farmers driving with loaded teams, no country roads, no railroads, no use of machinery, no noise of any kind, except the beating of the waves against her coral bound shores, and yet she does an immense shipping and manufacturing business for her size.

What is Intolerance?

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER: Your article of Dec. 18th on the Theological Seminary in Columbia, to which Mr. Smyth, of Pelzer, refers in your issue of January 1st, was taken, as I supposed, from the Columbia Register, from which copies were taken by many other papers throughout the country. Nothing prejudicial to either the friends or opponents of Dr. Woodrow was said in that article, or in your abstract of it, as far as appeared to me.

But when Mr. Smyth says: "As we all know it has been impossible to check the spirit of intolerance," he classifies his co-Prebys who sat with him as his peers in the late Synod at Greenville. It is not desirable, on many accounts, to protract this discussion at present; but it would be a pity if your readers should infer from the above statement that part of that Synod was tolerant and a part intolerant. It was a perfectly open and free discussion. I have never listened to a discussion in which all the courtesies of public debate were so finely observed, or one so free from parliamentary trick or maneuver. Dr. Woodrow himself most admirably exemplified the courtesy and eloquence of the occasion. There was tolerance all round and through the house. Dr. Woodrow was requested to select his own hours for speaking, and as many hours as he might desire. He availed himself of that privilege, and wisely selected the last that were to close the debate, and spoke seven hours. The Synod listened with profound and respectful attention, without any interruption, except politely to ask a question, which Dr. Woodrow had solicited of all the members. It was avowed as many times as there was any reason in it that Synod was not, and would not, sit in judgment upon Dr. Woodrow's opinion, then under question, as a theological heretic. Every precaution was observed to keep intact his reputation as a Presbyterian Minister and Doctor of Divinity; and when the conclusion of the debate was reached, it was as mild an expression of the Synod's approbation of his supposed new teaching as was possible to the English language, without saying nothing. Even after this, a complimentary resolution passed the house unanimously, in most courteous and affectionate terms expressing to Dr. Woodrow the admiration of his brethren. If there was any intolerance in all this—any in a vote of disapproval of a certain form of instruction in our own Seminary—any in having honest convictions and kindly expressions—expressing them in behalf of the Institution we are pledged to protect, then we must turn about and ask what is intolerance?

It is, we think, common to men and may be either: A bigoted fight of religious men that will not endure the opinions of scientific men, or a bigoted fight of scientific men that will not endure the opinions of religious men. Religion may be intolerant of science, and science may be intolerant of religion. We science claim to push her demands over into the region of theology, intolerant of any doctrine that may stand in her way, and the Church be denied the privilege of defending her deity? Is it intolerance in science to demand of theologians the control of a text of Scripture by the introduction of one of her theories? And intolerance in theologians to demur to that demand? Is it intolerance to be seriously convinced that a scientific theory is hostile to a religious doctrine and to say so? And, if this conviction is the result of ignorance, how does it happen that this spirit of intolerance could not be checked in fair and open debate?

It is a sort of tacit verdict of the world that intolerance is an attribute of the ignorant party, and the Church has been assigned her position in that party. Hence her opposition to any new idea has been styled "odium theologum," and hence, also, many of her friends have imperceptibly slid in their sympathies over to the party that seems to be honored with literary favor. If it be true that a great many of the friends of the Church have allowed their sympathies to go over to the side of scientific theories, at the expense of their loyalty to sound doctrine, it is a proof that the Church has been very tolerant, too tolerant; and the late expression of her convictions through the Synods has not been too soon. Her toleration of the advance of new philosophical opinions within her pale during the last 50 years, in other forms beside that of evolution, has been an expensive toleration; and, wake up now to a recognition of the fact is not only not intolerant, but she would be recreant to her trust if she were not as faithful as that.

The cry evermore is that we are fighting evolution, and that the Church is intolerant of free inquiry and scientific research. The truth is, that the Church is in such complete sympathy with science in all her findings, that she is almost ready to endorse theories that have not yet been demonstrated; and to give them encouragement has already allowed a vernacular creed to grow up among her members in the place of portions of her written creed, that are now regarded as almost obsolete. Whether this be wise or not it demonstrates that the Church is extremely tolerant of scientific progress. That the church has incurred the "stain" and reproach of intolerance by the late movement depends upon the standpoint whence that judgment is pronounced. If popular opinion pronounces that the Church has incurred a stain, there is a higher judgment; and we think, it will, ere long, prove to be the honor of the Southern Presbyterian Church to have effected that reformation.

Tobacco Raising in South Carolina.

"Richland," the wide-awake Columbia correspondent of the *Augusta Chronicle* and *Constitutionalist*, communicates to that paper the intelligence that "a large number of farmers in the upper part of the State will experiment this year in tobacco culture. They believe that they have lands admirably adapted to this crop, and will test it fully under the direction of men thoroughly informed in all matters relating to this crop. Col. T. J. Moore of Spartanburg County, one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers of the up-country, will plant fifty acres and cultivate the crop under instructions from a Virginian of long experience. If the experiments are successful, tobacco will be planted largely in that section in 1886."

The Midland Railroad.

Nothing published in the *News* for a long time has aroused as much interest in this city as the announcement of the arrival of Mayor Courtenay, of Charleston, and the meeting of the directors of the Greenville and Laurens Railroad. The people generally felt that there were two last faces to face with a question of vital importance to the city and that the time and circumstances demanded the most earnest and careful consideration. The railroad question was the leading one everywhere, and those who favor the Union of Greenville and Laurens with the Georgia Central and those who favor combination with the Midland discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the respective plans with absence of heat and prejudice, and proved the general disposition to be guided only by the best possible judgment.

It is not surprising that the question seems to be in favor of the Midland connection, but the minority is strong and able. Very few, however, dissented from the opinion that if any assurance can be given by the Midland of an extension over the mountains it will be to the city to back it with all she can command. Capt. Courtenay met the directors of the Greenville and Laurens and a number of prominent citizens at the office of Isaac M. Bryan at half-past 10 o'clock yesterday. Alex. McEwen, Hamlin Beattie, Wm. Wilkins and Mayor Townes being among those who attended. The meeting was an informal conference lasting an hour and a half, during which views were interchanged and questions asked and answered on all sides. The twelve directors then met at the office of T. J. Moore, adjourned after a session of two hours until the evening, and met again at 7 o'clock, remaining until 10. The policy of the road for the immediate future was discussed carefully and elaborately, Capt. Courtenay being again present by invitation.

The following resolution was finally adopted: "Resolved, That this Board has heard with great interest and satisfaction the statement of Mayor Courtenay as to the intention, scope and possibilities of the proposed Midland Railroad company, and that we concur in the opinion that it is to the interest of the counties of Laurens and Greenville, and hence of the city of Greenville, that the Greenville and Laurens railroad line, now graded, be made a part of the Midland railroad, on equitable terms, when that company is organized and sufficient amount of stock subscribed to assure the success of the enterprise; the terms and conditions of such connection to be determined hereafter, and that the interests of the present status of this company demand prompt action on the part of the corporators of the Midland railroad."

That a certified copy of these resolutions be handed by the secretary to Mr. Courtenay. It is understood that this action is satisfactory to Capt. Courtenay as representative of the corporators of the Midland Road. His visit here was for the purpose of obtaining a basis on which to work and that is secured by the resolution. It is stated that the road was originally projected by thinking men, the idea of March would chronicle the permanent retirement of President Arthur from public life, at least for many years to come, and that the Arthur dynasty would pass into the intangible as a necessary sequence of his deprivation of power. Meantime, he would not be able to attach to any glorious memory the efforts of the President and Secretary Frelinghuysen. The possible election of President Arthur to the Senate as the successor of Senator Lapham is a very disagreeable reflection to Mr. Blaine. 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